

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4399

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2044

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, BR

SUBJECT: US-BRAZILIAN CONSULTATIVE SUB-GROUP ON TRADE

REFS: (A) STATE 48237; (B) USDEL MTN GENEVA 1583

(C) ROGERS/RUSER TELECON MARCH 4

1. ON FEBRUARY 25 AND AGAIN ON MARCH 4 ECON/COMM COUNSELOR DISCUSSED BRAZILIAN IDEAS ABOUT FORTHCOMING MEETING OF SUB-GROUP ON TRADE WITH SERGIO ROUANET, CHIEF OF FONMIN COMMERCIAL POLICY DIVISION. ON BOTH OCCASIONS ROUANET SEEMED RATHER GUARDED, AND MAINTAINED A SKEPTICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FORTHCOMING MEETING. ROUANET DID NOT, ON EITHER OCCASION, GIVE ANY INDICATION OF THE SPECIFIC SUBJECTS GOB WOULD LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA. HE DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY PROBLEM WITH THE ITEMS WHICH THE USG WISHED TO DISCUSS PURSUANT TO THE PROPOSED AGENDA, BUT ASSUMED THERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADJUST THE AGENDA TO REFLECT BRAZILIAN VIEWS AT THE OPENING OF THE TALKS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO AN EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE INTERIM UNDERSTANDING ON EXPORT SUBSIDY AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, ROUANET REMINDED ECON COUNSELOR THAT THE SECRETARY AND SIMONSEN HAD AGREED THAT EITHER HE, THE SECRETARY, OR SECRETARY SIMON WOULD BE IN TOUCH AFTER THE SECRETARY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SIMONSEN'S IDEAS IN WASHINGTON WITH SECRETARY

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SIMON. BOTH SIDES HAD ALSO AGREED THAT THIS MATTER

SHOULD BE HELD EXTREMELY CLOSELY FOR THE TIME BEING. THUS, HE QUESTIONED THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT IN THE MEETING OF THE SUB-GROUP, AT LEAST PENDING SOME MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OR SECRETARY SIMON IN KEEPING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED. HE ALSO SAID THAT SIMONSEN'S IDEAS WERE OF COURSE VERY PRELIMINARY AND HAD NOT BEEN STAFFED OUT PENDING AN INDICATION OF US INTEREST IN SUCH AN APPROACH. THUS, THE GOB DELEGATION WOULD BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER ONLY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENTS: ROUANET'S OBSERVATIONS RE-INFORCE EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN BRASILIA 1862 THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY TO FONMIN SILVEIRA AND FROM SECRETARY SIMON TO SIMONSEN INDICATING A US READINESS TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF AN INTERIM UNDERSTANDING. WHILE IT HAS BEEN CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY THE GOOD WILL OF THE US AND THE SECRETARY'S READINESS TO EXPLORE THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM WITH SECRETARY SIMON, THE GOB IS AWAITING A POLITICAL SIGNAL THAT THE USG IS WILLING TO EXPLORE AN ACCOMMODATION. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS MESSAGES BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE SUB-GROUP.

4. DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO GENEVA AS DESIRED.
CRIMMINS

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